

PATENT**Amendments to the Claims:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A directional audio delivery apparatus for a system, comprising:

a device that receives incoming encoded signals and provides decoded audio signals for use by the system;

audio conversion circuitry that produces ultrasonic signals based on the decoded audio signals provided by said device; and

a directional speaker that outputs an ultrasonic output for a user based on the ultrasonic signals,

wherein said apparatus further comprises a beam-attribute control unit operatively connected to said directional speaker, said beam-attribute control unit being configured to electronically control an attribute of the output of said directional speaker,

wherein the ultrasonic output generates audio output,

wherein the attribute controlled influences a beam direction ~~width~~ of the audio output of said directional speaker so that the beam direction ~~width~~ of the audio output can be changed, and

~~wherein the beam-attribute control unit is configured to change the beam width of the audio output of said directional speaker through electronic, not mechanical, mechanisms~~

wherein the beam-attribute control unit receives wireless inputs from an electronic device to control the attribute,

wherein the beam direction depends on the position of the electronic device, and

wherein as the position of the electronic device changes, the beam direction can automatically change.

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2. (Previously Presented) A directional audio delivery apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein said system is one of an audio system, a stereo system, a television system, a radio receiver, a Digital Versatile Disc (DVD) player, a compact disc (CD) player, and a Video Cassette Recorder (VCR) player.

3. (Previously Presented) A directional audio delivery apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein said directional speaker is repositionable with respect to said system.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently amended) A directional audio delivery apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein a beam width of the audio output of the directional speaker is controlled wirelessly by the user via an electronic device ~~wherein the attribute controlled influences the direction of the audio output of said directional speaker.~~

6. (Currently amended) A directional audio delivery apparatus as recited in claim 5 further comprising increasing the ultrasonic frequency of the ultrasonic signals, which increases the attenuation and the beam width of the audio output ~~claim 1, wherein the attribute controlled depends on a remote controller for said system.~~

7. (Previously presented) A directional audio delivery apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein said directional speaker has a plurality of separately controllable regions, and wherein said beam-attribute control unit activates one or more of the controllable regions to control the audio output from said directional speaker.

8. (Previously presented) A directional audio delivery apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein said directional speaker has a curved surface, which can be a curved emitting surface or a curved reflecting surface, so that the audio output produced is intentionally configured to be non-collinear.

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9. (Previously Presented) A directional audio delivery apparatus as recited in claim 1 further comprising one additional directional speaker to create stereo effect.

10. (Previously Presented) A directional audio delivery apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein said apparatus further comprises a personalization unit operatively connected to said audio conversion circuitry, said personalization unit modifies the audio signals or the ultrasonic signals in accordance with an audio characteristic associated with the user of said apparatus.

11. (Previously Presented) A directional audio delivery apparatus as recited in claim 10, wherein the audio characteristic is provided to said directional audio delivery apparatus in a removable, portable data storage device that can be electrically connected to said apparatus.

12. (Previously Presented) A directional audio delivery apparatus as recited in claim 10, wherein the audio characteristic pertains to a hearing characteristic and/or a hearing preference associated with the user.

13. (Previously Presented) A directional audio delivery apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein said directional audio delivery apparatus further comprises an environmental adjustment unit that is configured to modify the audio signals or the ultrasonic signals in accordance with a piece of information from the environment in the vicinity of a portable device used by the user of said apparatus.

14. (Currently amended) A directional audio delivery apparatus as recited in claim 13, ~~wherein the piece of information is determined based on a position of the portable device, or~~ wherein the piece of information includes a noise level.

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15. (Previously presented) A directional audio delivery apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the ultrasonic output from said directional speaker is reflected by at least one reflecting surface before propagating into the free space where the user of the apparatus is positioned, as the audio output.

16. (Currently amended) A method for providing directionally constrained audio to a user using a directional speaker, said method comprising:

- receiving audio signals to be delivered to the user from an audio device;
- receiving a beam attribute input; and
- driving the directional speaker to generate the directionally constrained audio,

- wherein the beam attribute input controls at least one attribute of the directionally constrained audio,

- wherein the method further comprises converting the audio signals to ultrasonic signals,

- ~~wherein the beam attribute input controls a reflector associated with the directional speaker,~~

- wherein said driving includes at least driving the directional speaker in accordance with the ultrasonic signals to produce ultrasonic output for providing the directionally constrained audio,

- wherein the beam-attribute input is wirelessly received from a portable device, and

- wherein the method further comprises increasing in view of the beam-attribute input, the ultrasonic frequency of the ultrasonic signals is increased, which increases the attenuation and so as to increase the width of the beam of the directionally constrained audio.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 16, wherein said method further comprises altering the orientation of the directional speaker.

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19. (Currently amended) A method as recited in claim 16, wherein the beam attribute input depends on a distance or a position of an object.

20. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 16, wherein the beam attribute input being received is automatically provided, not based on an input entered by the user.

21. (Currently amended) A method as recited in claim 16, wherein in view of a beam-attribute input, the direction of the directionally constrained audio is changed.

~~wherein said method further comprises providing conventional audio,
wherein the beam attribute input selects output from either one of the
directionally constrained audio or the conventional audio,~~

~~wherein the audio signals are transformed into ultrasonic signals if
directionally constrained audio is selected, and~~

~~wherein the audio signals are not transformed into ultrasonic signals if
conventional audio output is selected.~~

22. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 16,

wherein the directional speaker has a plurality of segments to emit the directionally constrained audio and

wherein the segments can be individually controlled for emitting the directionally constrained audio.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 22, wherein the attribute controls at least one of the many segments to affect the width or the direction of the directionally constrained audio.

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25. (Currently amended) A directional audio delivery apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the beam-attribute control unit is configured to change a beam width ~~the beam width~~ of the audio output of said directional speaker so that the beam width is diverging around the vicinity of the user.

26. (New) A directional audio delivery apparatus for a system, comprising:
a device that receives incoming encoded signals and provides decoded audio signals for use by the system;
audio conversion circuitry that produces ultrasonic signals based on the decoded audio signals provided by said device; and
a directional speaker that outputs an ultrasonic output for a user based on the ultrasonic signals,
wherein the ultrasonic output generates audio output,
wherein the directional speaker is in a box,
wherein said apparatus further comprises a beam-attribute control unit, operatively connected to said directional speaker, said beam-attribute control unit being configured to electronically control at least one attribute of the audio output,
wherein the beam-attribute control unit receives wireless inputs from a portable device of a user to control the at least one attribute, and
wherein based on the wireless inputs from the portable device, both a beam direction and a beam width of the audio output can be independently adjusted by the user, without the need to move the box physically.